

**AGENDA**  
**SUISUN MARSH TECHCOMM MEETING**

DWR, Environmental Services Office, Large Conference Room  
9:30 am, January 25, 2001

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Agenda Changes, Announcements, and Other Business
2. October 26, 2000 Summary
3. Future Role and Purpose of TechComm
4. Next meeting: 9:30 am, Thursday, April 26, 2001  
DWR, Environmental Services Office,  
Large Conference Room

**DWR REPORT**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 5. Water Quality Monitoring / SMSCG Operation    | Liz Cook        |
| 6. SMSCG Modification Test                       | Leslie Pierce   |
| 7. SMPA ECAT Update                              | Terri Gaines    |
| 8. Suisun Marsh Charter / Amendment Three Update | Terri Gaines    |
| 9. Morrow Island Fish Screen Project             | Cassandra Enos  |
| 10. CALFED Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Team | Chris Enright   |
| 11. Suisun Marsh Elevation Survey                | Callie Harrison |

**DFG REPORT**

Laurie Barthman Thompson

12. Island Slough Monitoring Report
13. Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Monitoring -- 2000 Activities and Report
15. 1999 Vegetation Survey Report

**SRCD REPORT**

Steve Chappell

16. SRCD Perspective on Suisun Marsh Charter
17. Suisun Marsh Regulatory Group Update
18. Waterfowl Feeding Ecology Study

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MEETING SUMMARY  
SUISUN MARSH TECHCOMM MEETING  
October 26, 2000**

DWR, Environmental Services Office, Large Conference Room

**ATTENDEES**

Stephen Berger, RWQCB  
Steven Chappell, SRCD  
Gordon Enas, DWR  
Cassandra Enos, DWR  
Chris Enright, DWR

Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR  
Callie Harrison, DWR  
Lee Laurence, USBR  
Marla Macoubrie, FWS  
Tru Nguyen, DWR  
Laurie Barthman Thompson, DFG

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Item 1 - Agenda Changes and Announcements** -- None.

**Item 2 - July 27, 2000 Meeting Summary** -- No discussion or changes needed.

**Item 3 - Next TECHCOMM Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan 25, 2001 at 9:30 am, DWR Central District Large Conference Room.

**DWR REPORT**

**Item 4 - Water Quality Monitoring/SMSCG Operation**

Kamyar Guivetchi (for Liz Cook):

The results of marsh channel water salinity monitoring efforts were reviewed for the period of June 2000 through September 2000. The results are accessible via the internet at: <http://iep.water.ca.gov/suisun/curr-report/monthlyReports/>

The salinity standard in the Marsh for the end of October is 19 mS, so we would like to be at 14-17 mS by mid-October. Gate operation occurs when salinities are within 2 mS of the end of month standard. For November, the standards drop to 15.5 and 16.5 mS for the Eastern and Western Marsh, respectively.

Gate operations were to have started on November 1, 2000. However, due to some levee repairs requiring barge passage through Montezuma Slough near the gates, operation of the gates will begin no later than November 4.

Discussion: Marla requested reference information regarding the gate operating when 2 mS within standards are reached.

### **Item 5 – Summer Monitoring Network Maintenance**

Cassandra Enos:

Suisun Marsh Maintenance WY 2000:

1. Flushed tide and stage wells of accumulated sediments.
2. Replatinized/replaced EC probes which have shown a reduction in accuracy.
3. Cleared accumulated vegetation from around monitoring stations.
4. Replaced worn and lost floats, cleaned prove pipes and replaced missing and broken probe pipe feet.
5. Performed level surveys for staff gage checks/resets and water stage elevations.

Other Projects:

1. Installed a pressure transducer system at S-97 (ibis) for tide data collection.
2. Reconstructed walkway and railings at S-33 (Cygnus) and repositioned EC probe location for improved data collection.
3. Installed new walkway ramp at the S-49 (Beldons) station platform.
4. Constructed a New Hampshire Beaver Pond Leveler in the beaver dam 150 yards downstream of S-10 (Green Valley Creek) to reduce backwater to our station. Unfortunately the industrious beaver(s) then constructed a larger dam adjacent to our station. Stream reconnaissance's have been made and current proposal is to relocate the gauging station 1/3 miles upstream at Mangels Road.
5. Installed new dimple collar around the stilling well at Collinsville (C-2) to help suppress wave action coming through holes in the well. Since the tide well is deteriorating rapidly to corrosion and the landowner (Levine-Fricke Restoration) may make changes in the immediate area, plans have been initiated to share the newly restored USBR station located approximately 1/3 miles upstream at the end of Collinsville Road.

Relocation of S-10:

1. Met with DFG staff to verify new station location was covered under existing permit
2. Sent request to DL&RW for encroachment permit

Discussion: None

### **Item 6 – 1998 and 1999 Annual Reports**

Cassandra Enos:

1998 Annual report was completed and sent to the permitting agencies on September 29<sup>th</sup>. An electronic letter was also sent out notifying recipients of the report's availability. 1999 Annual report is in final stages and should be complete by the end of the calendar year.

Discussion: None

### **Item 7 – 1999-2000 Annual Report to SWRCB**

Callie Harrison:

The Annual Report is submitted to SWRCB in compliance with Term 10 of D1641. The purpose of the report is to update the Board on mitigation activities undertaken by DWR and USBR during the 1999 control season (June 1999 - May 2000). The report was completed and mailed on October 16, 2000 to the Board and an email distribution list.

Discussion: None

### **Item 8 – SMSCG Modification Test**

Chris Enright (for Leslie Pierce):

Chris reviewed the background for the study, discussed why the subgroup (the Tech team) was created, and explained the purpose of the Tech team. The Tech team evaluated numerous factors that could potentially alter fish movement and/or passage at the SMSCG. The team is planning to report results of all analyses done to the SMSCG Steering Group on December 11, 2000.

Discussion: None

### **Item 9 – SMPA Amendment Three**

Kamyar Guivetchi:

A handout, [SMPA Amendment Three Update](#), October 2000, was distributed and reviewed.

Discussion: None

## **Item 10 – SMPA ECAT Update**

Cassandra Enos:

ECAT meetings were held on September 14<sup>th</sup> and October 17<sup>th</sup>. No meeting was held in August to allow the parties to evaluate the 7 issues.

Section 7 Consultation -- A technical team was convened to address the 7 issues from a scientific and regulatory basis. Technical team provided a briefing packet to the negotiators with recommendations for each action.

Tidal Wetlands Restoration -- A CALFED proposal for tidal wetlands restoration was recommended for approval. The grant would provide \$500K in matching funds for property acquisition and pre-project monitoring

- Property Acquisition – An elevation survey was conducted on the 312 acre Pheasant Club to see if it is suitable for tidal wetland restoration.
- Site visits are scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> to view available properties.
- A TAC will be convened to work on the restoration effort.
- DFG Hill Slough Habitat Restoration – Consultant has completed pre-project monitoring and prepared 5 potential restoration plans. DFG will present to ECAT when available.

MIDS Hybrid Fish Screen Project – A project description was completed and submitted to ECAT for review and comments.

SMHM Mitigation and Monitoring – SMHM trapping was conducted and will be reported by Laurie

Discussion: None.

## **Item 11 – Morrow Island Fish Screen Project (DWR Portion)**

Gordon Enas:

The need for the Morrow Island Fish Screen Project arose from a US Fish and Wildlife condition relating to maintenance dredging for the MIDS. A Power Point presentation overview of the MIDS Fish Screen Project was given.

Current schedule is for construction during March - October 2001.

Discussion:

Steve Chappell noted the need for a simple form of debris removal at the end of Goodyear Slough. Steve also emphasized that the automated system shown by Gordon was riskier than a hydraulic system. Overfilling the distribution system is a greater threat with an electronic system.

Cassandra Enos should be notified of any changes to the footprint of the project due to possible environmental impacts of such a change. Lee requested coordination with Mike Nepstad and Bill O'Leary on environmental documentation.

### **Item 12 - CALFED Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Team**

Chris Enright:

Following the Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Team's recommendation, CALFED recommended Suisun Marsh Levees' inclusion to the CALFED levee program in the Draft Framework Report. The program includes both a short-term implementation plan and an overall blueprint for the Marsh. At this time, the report is being finalized.

The focus of the team now is to establish criterion and research needs for implementation of the reports recommendations. The team agrees that, initially, an accurate elevation survey of the Marsh is needed. An assessment of user's needs for the survey is being made and a Marsh Elevation Survey Team is being put together to evaluate and recommend appropriate survey resolution and technologies.

Discussion: None.

## **DFG REPORT**

### **Item 13 – Island Slough Monitoring Plan**

Laurie Barthman Thompson:

Monitoring for wildlife, waterfowl, and re vegetation of ponds 4 and 7 is continuing. The 1999/00 monitoring report is being reviewed by DFG staff and will be sent out to permittees by the end of the year.

Discussion: None.

### **Item 14 – Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Monitoring**

Laurie Barthman Thompson:

Patty Finrock has started the 2000 monitoring report. The report will contain all trapping results and vegetation at each site. The report should be completed by December 2000.

Discussion: None.

### **Item 15 – 1999 Vegetation Survey**

Laurie Barthman Thompson:

All field work has been completed. Staff are continuing to work on identifying and labeling each vegetation polygon. The vegetation map is expected to be completed by January or February 2001.

Discussion: None.

### **SRCD REPORT**

### **Item 16 – Lower Joice Island**

Steve Chappell:

On July 1, 2000, the Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) became the new owners of property #424, Lower Joice Island. This property is a total of 1,300 acres, with 300 acres of tidal wetlands and 1,000 acres of diked managed wetlands. SRCD was able to accept this property through the gracious donations from the previous landowners, grants from numerous partners, and the establishment of a substantial endowment / stewardship fund. Over the next few months SRCD will be establishing goals and objectives for the future use and management of the Island. Currently, the objectives are to identify opportunities for managed wetland restoration and enhancement projects, develop partnerships with Universities and Resource Agencies to conduct scientific studies and demonstration projects, and continue the hunting heritage on Lower Joice Island.

Discussion: None.

### **Item 17 -- Suisun Marsh Regulatory Group Update**

Steve Chappell:

Two meetings were held during the last three months. On August 24, 2000, the meeting was held in Oakland to discuss the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regional General Permit for the Suisun Marsh, the 2000 work season, and other Suisun Marsh projects in which the Regulatory Agencies may be involved. On October 10, 2000, CalFed held a meeting to discuss the Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Report and the Agency Committee was invited to attend the presentation. Additionally, 10% of all approved 2000 work season activities were inspected by SRCD, the USACE, and EPA, on August 28th and 29th, 2000. Some work activities were not complete at the time of inspections and these activities will be inspected in the Spring of 2001.

Discussion: None.

**Item 18 -- Waterfowl Feeding Ecology Study**

Steve Chappell:

Data analysis and processing of samples is still on going. All of the hunter shot collections have been completed and additional samples are being selected to increase the sample size. Processing of soil samples is nearly complete and a final report is expected in the Spring of 2001.

Discussion: None.

**Other Business**